

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX(PAQUA, JAMES A.)

SUBJECT: CASE REVIEW OF ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO:
(JAMES A. PAQUA)

REF: A) STATE 224398; B) STATE 227461; C) HERMOSILLO 280

1. THREE ISSUES RAISED IN REVIEW NEED FURTHER CONSIDERA-
TION, SEE PARS. 3 AND 6, REFTEL C.

2. PROLONGED TRIAL DETENTION: POST REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN
REASON FOR TRIAL DETENTION OF 20 MONTHS. INVESTIGATION OF
COURT RECORD SHOULD INDICATE WHETHER INACTIVE ATTORNEY OR
HEAVY COURT SCHEDULE AT FAULT, AND PAQUA MAY BE CONSULTED
TO DETERMINE WHETHER OWN DEFENSE TACTIC POSSIBLY INVOLVED.

3. CONSULAR ACCESS: POST IS REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN FROM
PAQUA WHETHER HE DID REQUEST CONTACT WITH CONSULAR
OFFICER AT TIME OF ARREST. EVEN IF HE DID NOT, THE ALMOST
TWO WEEK INTERVAL BETWEEN DATE OF ARREST AND FIRST RECORDED
CONOFF CONTACT IS AN EXCESSIVE ONE, PARTICULARLY AS THE
ARREST WAS REPORTED IN THE NEWSPAPER THE DAY AFTER IT TOOK
PLACE.

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4. CONSULAR VISITATIONS: DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THAT ANY
SHORTCOMINGS CAUSED BY PAST POLICY OF CONOFF AVAILABILITY
TO PRISONER ONLY WHEN SOLICITED - WITH RESULTING PAUCITY
OF RECORDS AND FOLLOW UP - DOES NOT REFLECT ON DILIGENCE OF C
CURRENT PERSONNEL. POST, HOWEVER, IS REQUESTED TO
REVISE ITS APPROACH TOWARD VISITATION AND PROTECTION FOR
IMPRISONED AMERICAN CITIZENS IN LIGHT OF INCREASED
AWARENESS THAT MORE EXTENSIVE AND THOROUGH SERVICE IS
REQUIRED, WHILE AT SAME TIME STILL PRESERVING PRISONERS'
RIGHT TO PRIVACY. KISSINGER

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